

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Under NH RSA 21-M:8-K, crime victims are entitled to the following rights:

- A** The right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process;
- B** The right to be informed about the criminal justice process and how it progresses;
- C** The right to be free from intimidation and to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process;
- D** The right to be notified of all court proceedings;
- E** The right to attend trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend;
- F** The right to confer with the prosecution and to be consulted about the disposition of the case, including plea bargaining;
- G** The right to have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized;
- H** The right to be notified if presence in court is not required;
- I** The right to be informed about available resources, financial assistance, and social services;
- J** The right to restitution, as granted under RSA 651:62-67 or any other applicable state law, or victim's compensation, under RSA 21-M:8-h or any other applicable state law, for their losses;
- K** The right to be provided with a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings;
- L** The right to be advised of case progress and final disposition;
- M** The right of confidentiality of the victim's address, place of employment, and other personal information;
- N** The right to the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence;
- O** The right to have input in the probation presentence report impact statement;
- P** The right to appear and make a written or oral victim impact statement at the sentencing of the defendant or, in the case of a plea bargain, prior to any plea bargain agreement.
- Q** The right to be notified of an appeal, an explanation of the appeal process, the time, place and result of the appeal, and the right to attend the appeal hearing;
- R** The right to be notified and to attend sentence review hearings and sentence reduction hearings;
- S** The right to be notified of any change of status such as prison release, permanent interstate transfer, or escape, and the date of the parole board hearing, when requested by the victim or through the victim advocate;
- T** The right to address or submit a written statement for consideration by the parole board on the defendant's release and to be notified of the decision of the board, when requested by the victim through the victim advocate.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Department of Justice

33 Capitol Street

Concord, NH 03301-6397

1-800-300-4500 (in NH only)

or (603) 271-1284

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

for VICTIMS of VIOLENT CRIME in

New Hampshire



New Hampshire

Victims' Assistance Commission

1-800-300-4500 (in NH only)

or (603) 271-1284

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

The NH Victims' Assistance Commission helps innocent victims of violent crime with expenses directly related to crime injuries. The costs of this program are paid by motor vehicle and criminal fine assessments and federal Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) grants, and not by New Hampshire taxpayers.

WHO CAN GET HELP?

- ◆ Any person who sustains physical and/or mental injuries as a result of a felony crime that occurred in NH on or after 11/2/89 or a misdemeanor crime that occurred in NH on or after 7/1/97.
- ◆ Any person who sustains personal injury as a result of persons driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances in New Hampshire on or after 11/2/89.

WHAT MUST I DO TO GET HELP?

- ◆ You must report the crime to local law enforcement or you must be able to document reasonable evidence of a crime through law enforcement reports or a domestic violence protection order.
- ◆ You must file an application with the Commission within one year from the date of the crime, unless there is a reasonable explanation why you could not. This time frame may be waived for good cause.
- ◆ You must cooperate with the reasonable requests of law enforcement officers and prosecutors in their investigation or prosecution of the crime.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The goal of the staff is to process claims within three months. However, the length of time it takes to process your claim depends upon several factors including: the number of service providers that we need to contact and the speed with which they respond, the length of time it takes law enforcement to provide us with police reports, and the length of time it takes you to provide us with the information necessary to process your claim. Every claim is unique so the amount of time it takes to process can vary greatly.

WHAT COSTS MAY BE PAID?

The program can help with the following types of crime-related expenses or lost wages/support, which are not covered by insurance or other resources, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 per victim:

- ◆ Medical and dental care needed for crime-related injuries.
- ◆ Crime-related mental health counseling with a licensed therapist.
- ◆ Relocation costs not to exceed \$4,000.
- ◆ Emergency funds for sexual assault victims available through your local crisis center.
- ◆ Up to 10 days of emergency funds available through your local crisis center for domestic and sexual violence victims.

IF YOU THINK YOU OR YOUR

DEPENDENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR VICTIMS' COMPENSATION:

- ◆ Complete the enclosed application form, sign it, and return it to the NH Victims' Assistance Commission.
- ◆ Your application form will be reviewed and you may be asked for more information/documentation. Please respond as soon as possible to any requests for more information.
- ◆ Should you require additional information, please call:
1-800-300-4500 (in NH only)
or
(603) 271-1284

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